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BOOK REVIEWS.

GUIDE TO THE MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS FOR THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1783, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM, IN MINOR LONDON ARCHIVES, AND IN THE LIBRARIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE. By Charles M. Andrews and Frances G. Davenport. Published by the Carnegie Institution, Washington, 1908; pp. 499.

The publication in recent years of the archives of various States for the Colonial period and of the British Government documents relating to America has made it possible now to write satisfactorily on Colonial history. The present volume is an effort to make important unpublished British manuscripts easily available to American students. It is one of a series of guides to foreign historical material bearing upon the United States which the Carnegie Institution is preparing and printing. The Cuban and Spanish guides preceded the British; the French, Mexican and Roman are to follow.

The plan of printing a guide to material on American history in London was first taken up by the American Antiquarian Society, which, however, relinquished the task to the Carnegie Institution. Professor Andrews and Miss Davenport, representing the Institution, have prepared the guide, which will probably be followed by the former's work on the documents in the Public Record Office, London.

The guide includes the manuscripts of the British Museum, Privy Council Office, War Office Library, House of Lords, General Post-office, Trinity House, Guildhall, Lambeth Palace Library, Fulham Palace, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Sion College Library, the Royal Society Library, Hudson's Bay Company, Oxford, Cambridge, and other libraries. Many of the papers concern Virginia.

Professor Andrews and Miss Davenport have rendered the cause of historical research a valuable service. Thousands of manuscripts have been listed, and the titles, though necessarily brief, are clear. Abstracts are included in some cases. The descriptive notes are excellent. The guide will be a boon and a blessing to every student who goes to England for a knowledge of American affairs.—H. J. ECKENRODE.

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF ENGLAND. COLONIAL SERIES, VOL. I, 1613-1680. Edited by W. L. Grant and James Munro under the general supervision of Almeric W. Fitzroy, Clerk of the Privy Council. London, Wyman & Sons, 1908; pp. 930.

The Acts of the Privy Council will appear in five volumes, covering the field to 1783. The present book includes 1613-1680. The Calendar of the Acts of the Privy Council as printed ends with 1603, and no provision was made by the British Government for continuing the work.

Publication was begun in 1834, and between that date and 1837 Sir Harris Nicholas issued seven volumes including the record up to 1542. A new series of 32 volumes was published between 1890 and 1906 by Sir J. R. Dasent which brought the work down to the death of Queen Elizabeth. At this point, fortunately for American history, the present editors took up the task in the volume under consideration.

The Council records from 1603 to 1613 were burned in the fire at Whitehall in 1618, and thus the documents of the Jamestown settlement were lost. The Civil War caused another break from August, 1645, to May, 1649. Colonial affairs during the Protectorate must be studied in other calendars. The records now in the Council Office consist of a large number of folio volumes, written by the clerks of the Council and narrating the proceedings; the "Plantation Register," which contains colonial laws and instructions to governors from 1677 to 1806; and a large collection of loose documents, mostly petitions and reports submitted to the Council by the Board of Trade.

The limited range of the work does not permit of the printing of all the extracts in full. Consequently certain parts have been condensed and such places in the text are indicated by brackets. The pruning has been so judiciously done that the student is rather grateful than otherwise for the cutting down. The volume is a very valuable addition to the sources of American Colonial history. The editorial work is careful and intelligent, and the result is a book which is both attractive and useful.—H. J. ECKENRODE.

VIRGINIA COUNTY RECORDS. Published Quarterly. Edited by William Armstrong Crozier, F. R. S., F. G. S. A. Published by the Genealogical Association, 211 West 101st Street, New York City. March, 1909. Vol. VI, Part I.

Mr. Crozier, who is well known through his various volumes on subjects relating to Virginia genealogy and heraldry, has determined that, instead of publishing occasional volumes (such as make the first five of "Virginia County Records"), he would issue a quarterly. This publication appearing oftener would afford space for presenting a very much larger number of abstracts, &c. Instead of the work being confined to one county, from fifteen to twenty can be included. It can be seen at once how valuable it will be to genealogists to have, as will be the case when Mr. Crozier's plans have been carried out, complete genealogical abstracts of all Virginia wills, lists of Revolutionary soldiers, of grantees of lands, of marriage bonds and similar indispensable source material.

No. I of the quarterly, which was issued in March last, contains the beginnings of series of abstracts of wills in Elizabeth City, old Rappahannock, York, Hanover counties; Surry county records in general; Northampton and Norfolk county marriage bonds, lists of Revolutionary soldiers, and of early grantees of land in several counties.